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LESLIE STAHL COMMENTATOR

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STAHL: We invited several officials from the Reagan administration to come on this broadcast and discuss this issue, but none of them would. With us now, Senators Patrick Leahy of Vermont and Richard Lugar of Indiana, both members of the Senate Intelligence Committee. Sen. Leahy, as a member of that committee, do you have any indication or any hint that the administration is planning a retaliatory strike? SEN. PATRICK LEAHY (D-Vt., Senate Intelligence Committee): Well, I think if there is a planning of one, the last thing that should be done is to discuss it publicly and what's gonna be done. I think one of the big mistakes after the bombing of our embassy, we talked about retaliation. After the massacre of the Marines, the administration talked again about retaliation. You can't cry wolf in this. You cry wolf, I think it could be argued that you encourage more terrorist things. You don't discourage 'em. If there is gonna be retaliation, then they oughtta' find out to who to retaliate against, and then do it swiftly, surely and talk about it afterward.

STAHL: Sen. Lugar, do you think there should be a strike in this case? SEN. RICHARD LUGAR (R-Ind., Senate Intelligence Committee): If the violators can be found and if we are certain who did it, and that, of course, is the problem in terms of trying to get into the cells and into the chain of responsibility. And finally, diplomatically to determine if it's a nation-state affair, whether we're prepared to take on a nation in addition to specific persons.

STAHL: Well, you're both on the intelligence committee, you're all, both suggesting that we don't know who did it. What's wrong with our intelligence? LEAHY: Well, I think when you're, when you're dealing with terrorist groups, especially if it's a small terrorist group, it's very, very difficult. The expert you had from Georgetown earlier made it clear, 'How do you infiltrate?' We did it at one time with the PLO rather effectively. Doing it now is far more difficult.

STAHL: This is the third bombing done in the same fashion. All of us who read about this have been reading the same names over and over--*Fhadlala, *Masawe--these names. Why can't the CIA tell us whether they are involved or not? LUGAR: I think intelligence leads have been followed, but I would just point out, Leslie, that there have been several hundred attacks on diplomats and embassies in the past 10 years. It's not a phenomena of this year, and it's no more a part of this year than any other year. It is important, however, for us to begin tightening further all of our procedures, and that, both administrations, the Carter and the Reagan, have been doing progressively. We've become a good bit more tense and rightly so.

STAHL: You know, there have been little bits of information fed out to the media that the administration has been able to prevent some terrorist attacks in Lebanon this year. Have we had some successes, have we penetrated more than they're telling us? LEAHY: There have been, there were preventions in the 10 years I've been here--in the Ford administration, the Carter administration, the Reagan administration. Fortunately, most of those you don't talk about. I think the issue, though, here, was there adequate security? And there was not adequate security. There an absolute lack of security in the Marines when they were massacred last year. I mean, the sentries weren't even allowed to have